

July 16, 2025

Re: APFIT funding for U.S. Navy lithium-ion batteries

The U.S. Navy seeks funding through the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT) program to support the development of domestically sourced lithium-ion batteries. I want to express my support for this project and request that it receive your full and fair consideration for funding via APFIT.

The Badland Batteries lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing plant represents an important opportunity for the Department of Defense (DoD) to establish a domestic supply chain for batteries that support unmanned aircraft, space systems and submersible systems. These systems represent key DoD capabilities both now and into the foreseeable future that will require secure, domestically supplied power supplies.

The Navy's industry partner for this effort is Packet Digital, an innovative North Dakota business with a track record of strong support for DoD priorities. I am proud to support Packet Digital's ongoing projects with both the Space Force and the Navy to develop advanced batteries for unmanned aircraft. This work demonstrates that Packet Digital is a reliable DoD partner. APFIT funding would allow Packet Digital to build on previous research for DoD by establishing a lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing plant capable of building the batteries it already designs.

The DoD will need the assistance of companies like Packet Digital to meet its ambitious goals for future unmanned aircraft, space and submersible systems. The current battery market is heavily dependent on China, even as these systems play an increasingly vital role in our national defense, and the existing U.S. domestic battery market focuses on electric vehicles. Packet Digital is well positioned to meet DoD demands for the lighter weight, higher energy density batteries that military systems require.

I am pleased that the U.S. Navy is working closely with Packet Digital to advance the development of domestic batteries. This proposal will advance U.S. national security by expanding our industrial base capabilities, helping build a robust supply chain of US-made batteries, and supporting the rapid transition of emerging autonomous technologies. I hope that it will receive all appropriate consideration for APFIT funding.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator